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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1959





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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959

Town Hall,

Ulverston,

September, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	8,022
Population - Census, 1951	10,398
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1959	10,240
Number of inhabited houses	3,762
Rateable Value	£82,879
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£328

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County Of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water.

The chief industries are viscose manufacturing, shoe-making, clothing manufacture and agriculture, but a large proportion of the male working population is employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow. The viscose factory started production at the end of 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for the year 1959 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

154 births were registered, 75 being males and 79 females. 2 males and 1 female were illegitimate.

Approximately 69% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 46, Malignant growths 25 and Vascular lesions of nervous system 17. Of the 46 deaths from Heart disease, 19 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year.	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Neo-Natal	
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths total births.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1959	154	x15.0	139	x15.6	1	5.5	Nil	Nil	6	39	5	32.5
1958	158	15.4	143	13.9	5	30.7	Nil	Nil	2	12.7	1	6.3
1957	161	17.6	155	15.0	6	32	Nil	Nil	7	39	6	33
1956	154	14.9	147	14.2	5	31	Nil	Nil	6	39	4	26
1955	148	14.3	141	13.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	6	41	4	27
1954	148	14.4	121	12.7	5	33	Nil	Nil	5	34	1	7
Average 5 years 1954-58	-	15.3	-	13.9	-	27.9	-	-	-	33	-	20

x Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.02) - 15.3 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 1.04) - 14.1 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1959	16.5	11.6	15.3	14.1
1958	16.4	11.7	15.7	14.4
1957	16.1	11.5	17.9	15.6
1956	15.6	11.7	15.3	14.8
1955	15.0	11.7	14.8	13.1

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District Council, Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council, Ulverston Rural District Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

W.W. JACKSON. C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I. Meat and Other Foods inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applicable to Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent:-
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A laboratory of the Public Health laboratory service was opened at Preston in April, 1959 and the hospital laboratory at Barrow ceased to undertake public health work. In conjunction with other local authorities in the area arrangements were made to use the Preston laboratory and in spite of the distance involved they are working very satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year, but some difficulty was experienced in keeping adequate pressure to some houses on high level at times of peak demand.

The public supply now serves 3,732 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely 13. There are 17 houses supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the site of the old gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

During the year 20 privy closets were converted to fresh water closets.

HOUSING

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type, opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness. Repairs and improvements are slow to be carried out. A notable feature is the number of houses which are owner occupied, this is estimated by the Rates Department as over 60%.

The twelve bungalows, comprising the scheme for providing special housing accommodation for the aged, were completed during the year. Eleven have been occupied by old people and the twelfth by the warden. All the tenants greatly appreciate the special accommodation provided.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-	Houses	Flats
(1) By local authority	12	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	4	Nil

1. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	104
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	191
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during the year	-
(b) Total number at end of year	14
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	79

2.	<u>Houses Demolished during the year</u>			Nil
3.	<u>Unfit Houses Closed.</u>	No. of Houses.	Displaced Persons.	Displaced during year Families.
	Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	1	2	1
4.	<u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-</u>			
			By Owner.	By Local Authority.
	(1) After informal action by local authority		24	Nil
	(2) After formal notice under -			
	(a) Public Health Acts		13	Nil
	(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957		Nil	Nil
5.	<u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957)</u>			Nil
6.	<u>Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement:-</u>			Nil
7.	<u>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 Improvement Grants etc.</u>			
	Action during year year:	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.	
	(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	14	14	
	(b) Approved by local authority	14	14	
	(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	
	(d) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	
	(e) Work completed	21	21	
8.	<u>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 - Standard Grants:-</u>			
	Action during the year:	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	
	(a) Submitted to local authority	36	36	
	(b) Approved by local authority	36	36	
	(c) Work completed	10	10	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcasses inspected and condemned within the district.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	14	41	-	138	17
Number inspected	14	41	-	138	17
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	20	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.....	-	49%	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	7%	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned...	-	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the 5 years 1954-1958 compared with the number in 1959.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					1959		
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Number of Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet fever	2	1	4	1	1	3	0	0
Measles	67	22	14	152	36	16	0	0
Whooping cough	58	22	9	13	0	0	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0
Erysipelas	3	1	0	2	2	1	0	0
Polymyositis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	1	2	1	2	4	0	1
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	133	51	30	169	47	25	0	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1959.

Age Periods	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
	6		0		2		0	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	4	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1953	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	10	4	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	6	9	0	0	3	0	0	0
1957	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1958	8	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
1959	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	7	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	34	22	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above named Acts.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In presenting this portion of the Annual Report, I am pleased to say that the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service has proceeded normally and nothing of a serious nature has occurred.

Routine work has again proceeded on a more normal level, except that clerical assistance has to be given in the work of the Surveyor's Department.

As reported last year, the repair of property has eased when compared with recent years but there appears to be a shortage of building trade labour in the town as it is a lengthy business to get repairs carried out.

Three Certificates of Disrepair were granted under the Rent Act, 1957, but there does not appear to be any demand for Certificates cancelling those that were issued. It is obvious from inquiries that tenants are quite content to pay the increase in rent provided that the house is properly repaired.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council has made fifty grants, most of them are what are now known as Standard Grants, and whilst the procedure is more simple for the applicants the new scheme entails more work in the Department. This is, however, a circumstance for which we must be satisfied owing to the increased standard of houses which is produced. In twenty nine cases the work was completed and the grants paid. It is again pointed out that landlords are not taking advantage of this scheme, these grants being made to owner occupiers. None of the work this year resulted in additional accommodation.

MILK SUPPLY.

Arrangements for the testing of milk at Preston appear to be working smoothly and samples are regularly taken month by month for this purpose. The quantity of milk pasteurised at the Barrow Creameries and retailed in this area continues to increase.

ICE CREAM.

There is only one ice cream manufacturer in the area and regular samples are taken and sent to Preston.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and one Knackers Yard.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Four hundred and twenty two visits were made to the various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good. The Food Hygiene Regulations, whilst causing considerable amount of work, have been thoroughly beneficial and most of the smaller shops now carry only pre-packed articles of food.

The most noticeable improvements have been in butchers shops and the response to the Food Hygiene Regulations has been most satisfying. The education of food handlers is carried on when visits are made to this class of premises, this being in my opinion the best method of carrying out the work.

The following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Fish

4 tins of fish

Fruit

11 tins of fruit

Vegetables

1 tin of tomatoes
3 x 56lbs. potatoes

Meat

19 tins of meat

Miscellaneous

3 tins of cream
10 lbs. black puddings
10 lbs. sausages
8 dozen pies

RODENT CONTROL.

The services of the part-time Rodent Operator appear to be greatly appreciated throughout the Town. A total of 368 premises were inspected and nearly 600 treatments were carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continued to operate without undue complaint, the annual holidays being staggered over the summer without employing extra staff, a fact which entails some delay in the collection of refuse but I feel that this is greatly to be preferred than a complete stoppage.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolation.

There are 11 privies, eight pail closets and five dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying places.

During the year 96 tons 10 cwt. of waste paper valued at \$606. 17s. 0d. and rags valued at \$9 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1958 were 99 tons 5 cwt. 3 qtrs. of paper valued at \$657. 1s. 11d. and rags valued at \$3.

HOUSING.

Since we are now only able to let houses which become empty by reason of the existing tenants leaving, the progress of providing accommodation for those families on the housing list is very slow and the number of cases requiring urgent attention is steadily rising and is causing more and more worry to the Housing Sub-Committee.

The Old People's Bungalows in Meadow Grove, Dalton have been occupied during the year and it is gratifying to note the reaction of the tenants. Eleven houses are in course of construction at Lord Street to replace houses dealt with under Slum Clearance Legislation.

The clearance of slum property continues and we are well up to date with the reports submitted to the Central Government some time ago.

In conclusion it gives me great pleasure to put on record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the Town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Beale and the Cleansing Staff, without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. JACKSON,

Public Health Inspector.



